

# Insider

August 2002



## **DISEASE MANAGEMENT: A NEW APPROACH FOR MEDICAID**

We would like to introduce you to Patricia Guidry, Alternative Care Coordinator for Healthy Connections. Pat will be working closely with Healthy Connections providers and the Bureau of Care Management to bring a new approach for Medicaid: the development of a disease management program.

Disease management is an integrated approach to health care delivery that seeks to improve health outcomes and reduce costs by:

- identifying and proactively monitoring high-risk populations,
- increasing patient education,
- providing tools to providers that will help them manage high-risk patients, and
- by preventing avoidable future medical complications.

Disease management programs target the population that accounts for most of the spending; those with chronic illnesses. With direct access to claims data, Medicaid can identify and stratify those patients who are living with a chronic disease.

We look forward to working more closely with you with the implementation of Medicaid disease management programs. Upcoming projects and programs include; pediatric asthma, diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, and emergency room utilization.

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If you would like us to address any information about Medicaid in this newsletter, please contact Christina Aguilera at (800) 378-3385 ext. 13 or [aguilerc@idhw.state.id.us](mailto:aguilerc@idhw.state.id.us).

## **HEALTHY CONNECTIONS EXPANSION PROJECT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE**

More than 60,471 Medicaid clients are enrolled. Healthy Connections continues to hit enrollment goals ahead of schedule.

“This is outstanding news,” said Joe Brunson, Medicaid administrator. “We’ve worked very hard to reach the goal and we’re there ahead of our deadline. It also gives us a head start on next year’s target of 68 percent enrollment. I’m confident we can reach that one too. I give a lot of credit to our regional staff, but all the healthcare providers deserve our thanks for signing up. It shows that doctors in Idaho really care and understand the importance of getting good medical care to Medicaid clients and they’re willing to provide that care.”

Brunson attributed the increase to Medicaid’s emphasis on expanding the program. “Every region in the state was up,” said Marnie Basom, the project manager for the Healthy Connections expansion. “The Twin Falls area did extremely well. About 57 percent of Medicaid clients in that area are enrolled in Healthy Connections. That’s up from 29 percent enrollment a year ago and 9 percent from January of this year.” Region 7, headquartered in Idaho Falls more than met its goal, too. According to Basom, Region 7’s enrollment is at 48 percent — up 10 percent from a year ago and 6 percent from January of this year.

We would like to thank you, our Healthy Connections providers, for making our enrollment goals a success!